Violaltion of Environment Discipline by Power Plant/Industrial Undertakings

970. PROF. SOURENDRA BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that most of Government owned power plants/industrial undertakings have been violating the environment discipline set out for adherence by these sectors and have been spreading pollution of environment in the country;

(b) whether Government have taken any penal action against all those who have been found to have violated the environmental rules and laws;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) what further effective action is being contemplated in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (DR. SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Action has been taken by the respective State Pollution Control Boards against all those industries violating the prescribed standards.

(d) A time-bound Action Plan for control of pollution has been prepared in consultation with the State Governments under which polluting units are required to meet the standards by Deecmber 31, 1991.

India's absention in U.N. Security Council

971. SHRI DHULESHWAR MEENA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India absented from voting in the U.N. Security Council, when it decided to hold a closed door debate to discuss the Gulf War; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) India abstained on a vote in the Security Council on a proposal to hold private meetings on the Gulf crisis.

(b) We preferred an open meeting of the Security Council but were not opposed to holding private meetings if that was the wish of the majority. Hence our abstention.

Report of the Dehra Dun based Forest Survey of India

972. SHRI DHULESHWAR MEENA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have examined the Report of the Dehra Dun based Forest Survey of India (FSI) according to which India's environmental stability is at stake as the country's forest cover is diminishing at an alarming rate;

(b) whether the situation is worse in some of the northern States like Rajasthan, Haryana and Punjab where the forest cover is less than 10 per cent of the area;

(c) whether the average growing stock of wood compares poorly with the world standards per hectare; if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether any long-term or short-term plans are being prepared to check this alarming forest cover depletion; and

(e) the broad features thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (DR. SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

According to the State of Forest Report 1989 brought out by the Forest Survey of India, the actual forest